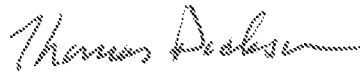


REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement, claims 15-31 are pending and claims 19, 21, 22 and 24-26 are withdrawn. Applicant elects Species II which corresponds to claims 15-18, 20, 23, 27 and 29-31. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's finding that claim 28 corresponds to Species III. Claim 28 does not contain a requirement that (a) the region is defined by a separate component part of the wheel [claim 24] or (b) the surface of the wheel/tire assembly is substantially smooth [claim 25]. Instead, claim 28 includes broader limitations to "the region at the junction between tire and rim," similar to claim 15.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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